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has been so carelessly worked over that contradictions are frequent and the point of view is sometimes changed two or three times in as many pages. An example of the way he employs his authorities may be seen in the fourth chapter, where the conditions in Spain that rendered Moslem conquest easy are under discussion. On page 174 we find the statement that King Witiza, next to the last of the Visigothic rulers, caused a church council to pass laws authorizing the marriage of the clergy and the institution of polygamy among the people. The authority for this statement is not given, but it seems to have been drawn from Lea's *History of Sacerdotal Celibacy*, although the latter gives the regulation as emanating directly from the king and not from the council. Now Mr. Lea is generally a safe writer to follow, but it happens that just here he has been misled by trusting to the so-called Chronicle of Liutprand, which has been shown to be a forgery of the sixteenth century. The only contemporary authorities that mention King Witiza speak of him as an enlightened prince, about whose reign no such scandal attaches, and the later stories of his proficiency seem to have been invented by the chroniclers to account for the triumph of a false religion. Mr. Scott, therefore, in his desire to find matter of accusation against the Spanish church of the eighth century, has wholly misstated the facts, though he might have been put right by consulting so common an authority as Gibbon, while he has had the misfortune to let escape him so savory a morsel as an undoubted case of forgery by a Jesuit of the sixteenth century.

The same faults and errors are to be met with throughout the work. The third volume, which is devoted to a survey of Moorish civilization and a comparison of it with contemporary Christian culture emphasizes the superiority of the former and points out the many valuable contributions that reached Europe through Mohammedan Spain; but one never feels quite sure that these influences are justly estimated unless he knows of confirmation from other sources. When it comes to the picture that Mr. Scott draws of the rest of Europe during the Middle Ages, we have a piece of literature worthy to rank with the tracts of the A. P. A. There we find heaped up together all the scandal and refuse that have attached themselves to the Church from every quarter for the past thousand years without any attempt even to sketch the other side of the picture. Such a method of treatment of the history of mediaeval Europe is entirely out of date, and it cannot be said that on the whole the *History of the Moorish Empire in Europe* is either a safe or a well-balanced book.

A. C. HOWLAND.

University of Pennsylvania.

Thorpe, Francis Newton. *A Short Constitutional History of the United States*. Pp. vi, 459. Price, \$1.75. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1904.

This book is not an abridgement of the author's well-known larger works, but rather a new and briefer text based upon the same materials. Dr. Thorpe's method is best illustrated by his comparative study of the state constitutions, which are traced to their original sources, the conscious needs

of the people. Much use is made of the debates in state constitutional conventions. The book is to be especially commended for its well asserted information upon recent constitutions in the various States. Comparative study of constitutions is closely related to the more general subject of comparative legislation. This is well illustrated in our author's treatment of the varying legal status of the negro in American history. The successive steps by which "a race without a country" has become a race endowed with full political rights are clearly traced, showing the changes in statutes and in State and Federal constitutions. Wherever the Federal constitution is considered, whether the special topic is its formulation, exposition, amendment, or interpretation, the standpoint is that of adaptation to conscious needs and popular demands.

An appendix contains the text of the constitution with a citation of cases interpreting its various sections and clauses. Of these the longest list—about 200 cases—is appended to Section 10 of the First Article, which contains prohibitions upon the States. The interstate commerce clause and the section stating the jurisdiction of the Federal courts are followed by citations of more than a hundred interpreting cases. Of the amendments the Fourteenth has been most subject to judicial interpretation.

Besides the general index a special index to the Constitution is provided.

JESSE MACY.

Iowa College.

Walker, Francis. *Monopolistic Combinations in the German Coal Industry*. Publications of the American Economic Association. Third series. Vol. V, No. 3. New York, 1904.

There does not seem to be any question that during the last few years economic students have taken a special interest in the mining and smelting industries, as is shown by many monographs. Thirty years ago other industries were especially favored by students, as for instance, the cotton industry of Lancashire, the hardware industry of Sheffield and the machine industry. The economic importance of these industries has not diminished. Why, therefore, this relative decrease of interest? Why this preference for the mining and smelting industries? The textile industries and manufacture of finished iron products were the best representatives of the then ruling type of capitalistic industries, based upon free competition; to-day the mining and smelting industries are the most advanced, organized groups of enterprises, aiming toward monopoly.

These industrial monopolistic combinations are furthest advanced in the United States and Germany. The history and the importance of Trusts and similar combinations in the United States have been the subject of a great number of essays, not only by American writers, but during the last few years by European economists as well. While, however, at least some of the European authors were trying to compare the status of affairs on the European continent with that in America, the American writers were too busy with questions relating to their own country to consider the European